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M.L.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

HILL et al

Atty. Ref.: 36-1578

Serial No. Unknown

Group:

Filed: March 14, 2001

Examiner:

For: INTERFACE DEVICE

* * * * *

March 14, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and in order to place the above identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the claims as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the following amended claims for corresponding claims previously presented. A copy of the amended claims showing current revisions is attached.

3. (Amended) An interface device as claimed in claim 1 further comprising:
means arranged to transform the data format of said received data from said first zone at least twice prior to said data processing.

4. (Amended) An interface device as claimed in claim 1 in which said first zone data format is packetised data, further comprising:

means for reading at least one item of identification data from each packet;
wherein

said processing means is arranged to process each respective packet in dependence on the or each corresponding item of identification data.